

GARRETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT – September 2013
Month in Review

Board of Education

1. The Board met with Department of Financial Services to discuss financial issues relative to the GC Public School System. This review included the designation of FY13 carryover funds and the appropriation level of Co funding for FY15. The Board will take this matter under advisement and take official action at a Special Public Meeting on September 30, 2013.
2. The Board scheduled a Special Public Meeting on September 30 for the exclusive purpose of taking action and reviewing financial matters relative to the GC Public School System. The Board approved the BOE to retain the total amount of carryover in the amount of \$820,868 from FY13 to FY14 with the condition that these funds be restricted and expended for the exclusion priority expenditure as listed in the Analysis of Supplemental “One Time” Needs. Further discussion on public education funding matters to include FY15 appropriation will be taken under advisement pending the GC Public School System Facility Study is complete by the end of October.
3. The Board discussed a number of financial matters related to the GC Public School System. These nonspecific topics included non-recurring costs, maintenance of effort calculations, undesignated/unreserved fund balances and the Board's opinion that the GC Public School System/BOE need to look at a strategic long term plan.

Department of Legislation

1. The Board conducted a legislative review of SB 370 – Wind Energy Conversion Systems. The Board addressed the legal issues raised by the Attorney General. The Board believes that the existing legislation should be revised to remove the opportunity for variance relief altogether from the existing legislation. In other words the set-back standards contained within the current statute should be mandatory and no opportunity for a variance should be available to reduce these set-backs. Mr. Pagenhardt will convey this decision to GC Representatives.
2. The Board issued an official statement rebutting the MD Counties Movement to secede from the State of MD. There have been media reports that GC is one of five counties that support this movement. This declaration is not accurate and the Board has never been in discussion with any person or party on this matter. The Board also stated that GC Government has a very good working relationship with State of MD Government.

Department of Planning & Land Development

1. The Board re-appointed Steven Gnegy and Robert Browning to the DC Watershed Board of Zoning Appeals.
2. The Board conducted a **Public Hearing** to review a Petition submitted by William Meagher to amend the DC Watershed Zoning Ordinance. In addition the Board also reviewed recommendations for zoning amendments originating from the GC Planning Commission. Chairman Gatto announced that he would recuse himself and abstain from the proceedings of the **Public Hearing** scheduled based on the fact that Gatto Electric, LLC which he is the primary owner, has completed electrical contract work for the Petitioner, William Meagher. Chairman Gatto departed the **Public Hearing**. On this date the Board closed the **Public Hearing** and agreed to hold the public commentary record open for a 2 week period to conclude on October 8, 2013.

Purchasing Department

1. Single Axel Dump Trucks. The Board approved an award to Freightliner of Hagerstown for a unit price of \$151,268.00 for 3 units with a total price of \$453,804.00.
2. Casselman Valley Soccer Association AYSO Soccer Complex Improvements. The Board approved an award to JD Excavating and Land Developers for a total contract amount of \$38,502.50 with the funding to be paid by Program Open Space funds.
3. Digital Cellular Telephone Service. The Board approved an award to US Cellular for an estimated monthly expense of \$2,514.30.
4. Deferred of Recommendation made during the September 3, 2013 Public Meeting. MLP and Loch Lynn Heights Water Line Replacement. The Board approved an award to Winters General Contractor, Inc. for a total bid award of \$155,793.50.
5. ASCI Pump Repair. The Board awarded a bid to RAM Industrial Services, LLC for a total price of \$69,600.00.
6. Mountain MD Energy Advisory Committee Consultant. The Board awarded a contract to Downstream Strategies, LLC for a total price of \$64,227.00.
7. Architectural/Engineering Services – DC 2014 Capital Improvements. The Board awarded the bid to Waldon Studio Architect for a total cost of \$65,216.61. Funding for this project is from the \$1,000,000 State of MD Bond.
8. Recommendation for declaration of Surplus Co. Property and Equipment. The Board approved the list as presented on this date.

Public Works

1. The Board announced official action to establish the GC Department of Public Works. This new County department will consolidate the Department of Public Utilities and Roads Department. This Department will be comprised of 2 Divisions – Roads and Utilities. Jay Moyer, formally General Superintendent with the County Roads Department has been appointed to the position of Director of the DPW and will oversee all operations and administrative requirements. This restructure plan when complete will result in an estimated savings of \$170,000

Miscellaneous

1. The Board executed a Proclamation designating the week of September 17 -23, 2013 as “Constitution Week”.

2. GC Community Action Committee gave a brief agency overview to include list of 2013 Board of Directors, Agency participant characteristics, program participation by category, Agency income and expense summary, Head Start Experience statistical report, new areas of Agency emphasis, program areas of concern for the Agency, and First Time Homeowners Program.
3. Dove Center updated the Board on client data, review of client programs, public awareness, prevention, and outreach focus, review of historical trends, program fiscal projections, fund raising plans, and other advocacy services.
4. Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management briefed the Board on the EOC completion, installation of broadband, essential staff designation policy, countywide alert system for fire and rescue associations, notice of "Public Safety Day" planned for October 19, 2013, and communication improvement plans.
5. The Board executed a Proclamation designating September 20 to 22, 2013 as "Casselman River Bridge Bicentennial Days".
6. Tucker County Community Foundation Development Director Diane Hinkle presented the Board with an overview of 2013 "Run For It" event. The Foundation explained that GC has a number of teams that will participate in the event. A request for financial assistance was made. The Board agreed to appropriate \$500 to the event.
7. The Board discussed reappointment of members of the GC Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Advisory Committee. The Committee had been suspended. The Board agreed to re-solicit names from interested persons who will want to serve on this committee.
8. The Board discussed the use of available office space in the basement of the M&T Bank Building that is owned by the County.
9. The Board approved a 3-year abatement of real property tax for The Meadows.
10. The executed a Proclamation designating the week of September 30-October 4, 2013 as "Economic Development Week".
11. The Board executed a Proclamation designating October 2013 as "Workforce Development Professionals Month "